

Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River

Conservation Opportunity Area



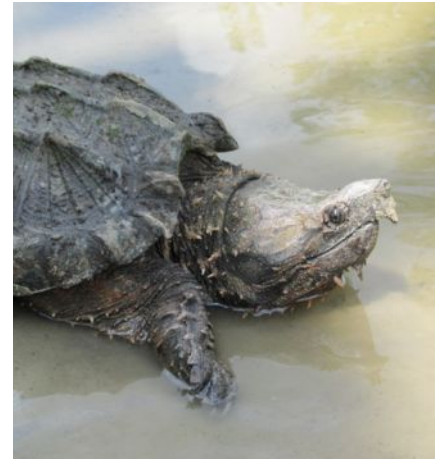
The Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River in Dyer, Crockett, and Gibson Counties is encompassed within this Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). This Middle Fork has been extensively channelized, and approximately 20% of the original bottomland hardwood forests remain. Nevertheless, the river and its associated terrestrial habitats remain important for a variety of wildlife species. This ecosystem is important for waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Tigrett Wildlife Management Area, which encompasses 7,000 acres within this COA, provides habitat for Alligator Gar, Alligator Snapping Turtles and Bald Eagles.

The potential to restore the river and its associated floodplain make this a high priority zone. Created habitats would benefit waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and other migratory species as well as improve wetland functions. Improved wetland functions could enhance groundwater recharge, reduce sediment transfer, and help minimize downstream flooding.

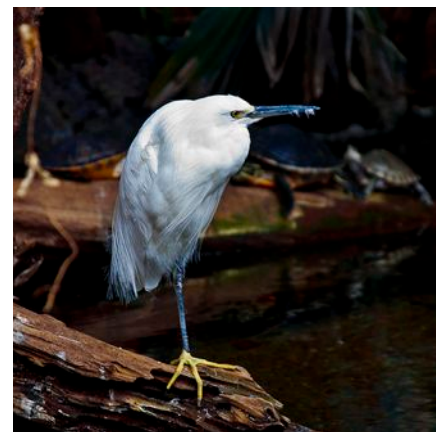
TWRA will consider future land acquisitions in this COA for watershed protection, critical habitat protection, habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, planting of bottomland hardwoods and warm season grasses, and buffer strip plantings along the river. TWRA will also seek partnerships with other agencies and landowners to implement many of the management strategies on private lands within this COA.

Public Lands within the COA

Eaton Bottom Wetland, Horns Bluff Refuge, Lake Lauderdale Refuge, Tigrett Wildlife Management Area



The river and its associated habitats remain important for a variety of wildlife, including waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.



Top to bottom: Portrait of an Alligator Snapping Turtle - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Snowy Egret - Utahwildflowers/next page: Alligator Snapping Turtles in monitoring traps - Rob Colvin, TWRA

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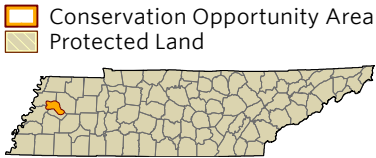
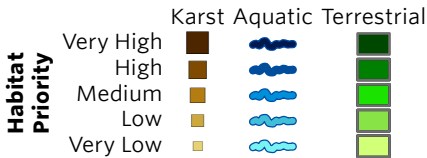
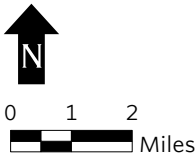
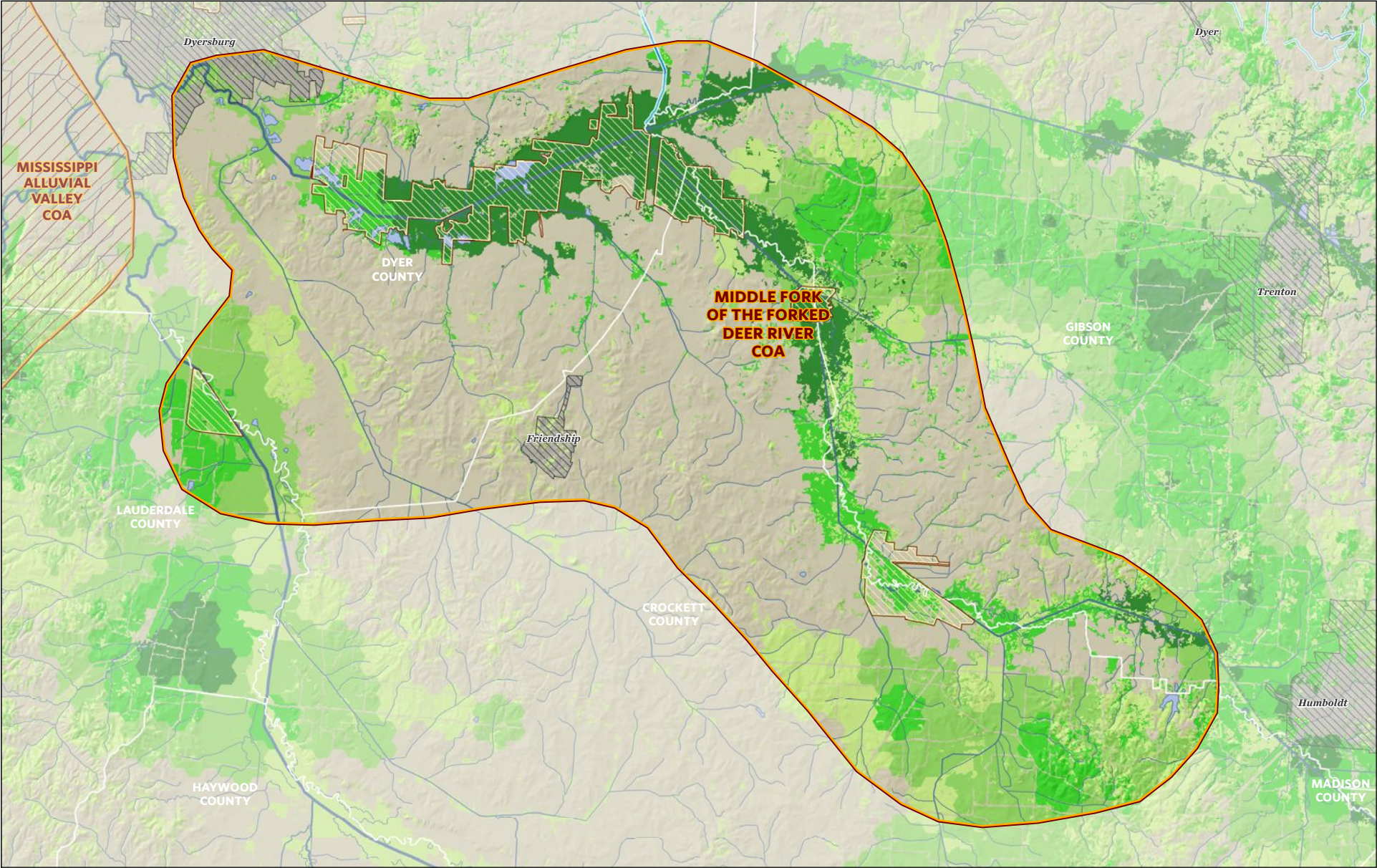
Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service/ Mississippi River Basin Initiative, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Wetland Acquisition Fund, National Wild Turkey Federation, Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation, Farm Bureau, UT Agricultural Extension, Cooperative Extensions, universities, various other institutions, and local governments.



Desired Change	Units
+ Increase restoration of critical land units and aquatic resources on private lands using government-funded incentive programs	number
+ Restore acres of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands, and acquiring inholdings within public land areas.	acres
+ Restore rivercane corridors.	acres
+ Increase mudflat and moist soil habitat on wildlife refuges through enhanced water management to provide habitat for migrating birds and Mississippi kites	acres
+ Create or improve buffers around tributaries to reduce sediment transfer and runoff of contaminants.	acres
✓ Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres

To learn more about the Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact: Rob Colvin, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 1 (731) 423-5725



MIDDLE FORK OF THE FORKED DEER RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Amphibian	Ambystoma texanum (Smallmouth Salamander)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Bartramia longicauda (Upland Sandpiper)
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern)
Bird	Calidris himantopus (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Pluvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Riparia riparia (Bank Swallow)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Tryngites subruficollis (Buff-breasted Sandpiper)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Fish	Atractosteus spatula (Alligator Gar)
Plant	Didiplis diandra (Water-purslane)
Reptile	Macrochelys temminckii (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster (Yellowbelly Water Snake)

MIDDLE FORK OF THE FORKED DEER RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest	18961
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	4189
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	8841
Pasture	722
Old Field / Successional	183
Aquatic Habitat Type	Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Headwaters and streams	1